Connecting Evidence to a Claim: A Sample

**Claim: Our school should increase its recycling efforts.**

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| Source:   1. T. Pragya, “Recycling Facts for Kids” retrieved 2 February 2013 from [**www.buzzle.com**/articles/**recycling-facts-for-kids**.html](http://www.buzzle.com/articles/recycling-facts-for-kids.html) (last updated June 27, 2012) | | |
| ***Evidence from the article*** | **How could you connect the evidence to your purpose (argue that our school should increase its recycling efforts)?** | **What information will you need to demonstrate the impact in our school?** |
| “Recycling a ton of paper saves 17 trees.” | Middle school students and teachers use a lot of paper each day. Much of this ends up in the trash. Attention to recycling could reduce the number of trees that are sacrificed. | How much paper do we dispose of each day? |
| Families throw away 6 trees of paper in a year | Some of the paper we use at school is sent home in the form of notes and newsletters. We could reduce the number of notes home by posting most notices on our website instead. | How many times do principals and teachers send home notes that could be posted instead? |
| We use 4 million plastic bottles an hour.  The average person uses 107 bottles and 160 cans a year.  “Reusing saves landfill space. We are running out of places to bury our trash.” | Preparing lunches for students means a large number of bottles and cans are emptied each day. We could reduce the amount of trash sent to the landfill if we recycled them instead. | How many bottles and cans do the cafeteria workers toss out on an average day? |
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| ***Evidence from the article*** | **How could you connect the evidence to your purpose (our school should increase its recycling efforts)?)?** | **What information will you need to demonstrate the impact in our school?** |
| Source: <http://www.recyclenow.com/recycle/recycle-school/get-your-recycling-collected/how-much-does-your-school-waste>. Retrieved 7 June 2014. | | |
| “The average secondary school produces 22kg of waste per pupil each academic year. The figure for primary schools is even higher at 45kg per pupil.” | While a waste audit would help us know exactly how much our school is throwing away, we can use the average of 22 kg per student to estimate that our school sends 5,126 kg of waste to the landfill each year. That’s 11,300 pounds (nearly 6 tons!) from our school of just 233 students. We can imagine that each teacher disposes of as much or more. | This information relates to students. How much do teachers toss out? |
| Source: WasteFreeLunches.org | |  |
| ***Evidence from the article*** | **How could you connect the evidence to your purpose (our school should increase its recycling efforts)?)?** | **What information will you need to demonstrate the impact in our school?** |
| “Lunch foods cause a big trash problem. In fact, on average a school-age child using a disposable lunch generates 67 pounds of waste per school year. That equals 18,760 pounds of lunch waste for just one average-size elementary school.”  A waste-free lunch could save $246.60 per school year per person. | Students often bring disposable containers in their sack lunches. Encouraging everyone to use washable containers would reduce the amount we throw away each day. | How many students bring their lunch? How many bring disposable containers? How many bring washable ones? |